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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO. 666

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Perleberg

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 2 to 16 December 1950

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DATE OBTAIN

PREPARED 18 January 1951

REFERENCES

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Between 2 and 15 December 1950, the Artillerie Kaserne, Perleberg (M 54/T 70), still seemed to be only partly occupied. All windows of the former post hospital, the guardhouse, and one barracks building, were lighted at dusk, while only about 20 percent of the windows of the other barracks buildings were lighted at that time. A wooden observation platform had been erected on the roof of the former stable. It was occupied by a sentry. On 8 December about 100 troops wearing crimson epaulets marched into the installation. * Half of them carried infantry rifles and the other half magazine-fed rifles.

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the building which formerly housed the post hospital was now occupied by Soviet officer families. The hospital was allegedly moved to a tenement house on Graf Haeselerstrasse in November 1950.

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2. There was no army ration supply depot in Perleberg. The troops drew meat from the municipal slaughterhouse, bread from the cooperative bakery, and potatoes, vegetables, and other foodstuffs from the Procurement and Purchasing Firms, Peoples' Owned Enterprises (Volkseigene Anschaffungsbetriebe) (VEAB).

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3. The area of the so-called Bayerteich, including Immolmannstrasse, and the former agricultural school were placed off limits. No information on the nature of these restricted areas could be obtained. **

4. The Artillerie Kaserne on Lindenstrasse consisted of four old, four or five-story buildings located near the gate, and five smaller, modern, three or four-story buildings fronting on Lindenstrasse. After nightfall between 14 and 16 December, about 80 percent of the windows of two of the old buildings and 30 and 20 percent respectively of the windows of the two other old buildings were lighted. All of the windows of three of the modern buildings were lighted, while one was about 80 percent lighted and one about 60 percent lighted. About 80 percent of the windows of a detached barracks building in the southern section of the billeting area were lighted on those evenings.

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5. The officers' billets on Bayerteich were surrounded by a board fence. The entrance to the billeting area was blocked by a road barrier. About 80 percent of the windows in the billeting area were lighted in the evening of 15 December. **

6. On 14 December, eight 10-man groups were observed being instructed in the area of the quarters at the Perleberg airfield.

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* [] Comment. [] 80 percent of the windows in the installation were lighted in the evening of 2 December and estimated the number of troops there at 1,000 to 1,500.

Reports of late 1949 and early 1950 also stated that the installation quartered 1,000 to 1,200 troops. On the basis of the present report, it cannot be established whether some of the elements of the 18th Meck Div stationed in the Artillerie Kaserne were away from the post in mid-December.

** [] Comment. The area at Bayerteich is known as a restricted area. The former agricultural school was reported for the first time to be a military installation.

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